

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on April 21, 2016 in Room 106 of the DHMH Metro Executive Building, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Kirk Payne called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. Present for the quorum were Ms. Lisa Melody, Mr. John Rouse, Mr. George Sheckells, Ms. Billie Jo O'Donovan, Ms. Ellen Stein, Mr. John Sloan, and Dr. Charlotte Godfrey.

Staff Present

Anthony DeFranco, AAG, Board Counsel
Christopher Kelter, Executive Director
Danielle Vallone, Board Investigator
Kristen Neville, DHMH
Yolanda Campbell, Office Secretary III

Absent Members

Dr. Joan Dawson

Agenda Approval

The agenda is revised to include H. Revision to SLP – Limited License Application. Mr. John Sloan made a motion to approve the revised agenda. Ms. Melody seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.

Minutes Review and Approval for March 17, 2016

The Board will review the minutes at the next Board meeting on May 19, 2016.

Regulatory Review

Official Transcript and Name/Address/E-mail Change Notification Requirements

Mr. Kelter reported that the proposed regulation was still with the Department and its consideration by Secretary Mitchell.

2016 Legislative Session

SB 109- Health Occupation Boards/ Criminal History Record Checks – Required

Mr. Kelter reported that SB 109 was returned passed to the Senate and was signed into law on April 12, 2016. Mr. Kelter reported that the bill has an effective date of October 1, 2016. Mr. Kelter

reported that he and Board Investigator Danielle Vallone would begin efforts in earnest to learn from other boards what needs to be done to efficiently and effectively implement the requirements of the criminal history records checks for new licensees and existing licensees.

Ms. Billie Jo O'Donovan arrived

SB 1083 – Secretaries of Principal Departments – Supervision and Review of Decisions and Actions by Units within Department

Mr. Kelter reported that the Health and Government Operations Committee considered SB 1083 at a hearing on April 11, 2016. Mr. Kelter reported that the HGO Committee did not take a vote on the bill. Mr. Kelter reported that he and the other Executive Directors are aware that there is a short-term risk in not having a solution to the “active supervision” requirement of the Supreme Court’s decision in the North Carolina Dental Board case.

Executive Director’s Report

2016 AUD, SLP, and SLP-A Renewal – Update

Mr. Kelter reported renewal postcards were mailed on March 23, 2016 and the initial e-mail to advise eligible licensees that the online renewal system was open was issued on March 28, 2016. Mr. Kelter reported that to date the Board has issued more than six hundred renewal licensees and approximately 120 completed renewal applications were ready for review and approval. Mr. Kelter reported that almost 200 renewal applications were in process but not yet completed by the licensee. Mr. Kelter reported that there were no issues creating problems for licensees and the Board staff.

SLP Continuing Education Audit – a) Random b) Voluntary

Mr. Kelter reported that in total 267 of 346 audits had been completed. Mr. Kelter reported that 79 out of 96 Voluntary Audits had been completed and that 184 out of 210 random audits had been completed.

Additionally, Mr. Kelter reported that 66 requests for an extension of time to complete the continuing education requirements had been granted – this is an increase of 37 requests compared to the same time last year. Mr. Kelter reported that to date 54 Letters of Education had been issued which was an increase of 39 compared to the same time last year.

Office of Legislative Audits – Review

Mr. Kelter reported that the fiscal audit was still on-going and he was unaware of why the fiscal audit had not yet concluded. Mr. Kelter reported that the auditor documented the Board’s procedure of updating the electronic record of a licensee in Board’s licensing database.

Mid-Atlantic Expo – March 17-18, 2016

Mr. Kelter reported that he attended the Friday session of the Mid-Atlantic Expo and that he interacted with as many hearing aid dispenser licensees as possible. Mr. Kelter reported that he made a brief presentation to the Maryland delegation of The Hearing Society of Maryland, Washington DC and Delaware regarding the requirements to become a board member. Mr. Sheckells reported that he was concerned about details regarding new federal definitions and advice regarding personal sound amplifiers.

2015 Financial Disclosure Filings – State Ethics Commission

Mr. Kelter reported that the deadline for the financial disclosure for calendar year 2015 was rapidly approaching and requested board members who had not yet completed the disclosure to complete it as soon as possible.

Board Membership Update

Mr. Kelter reported that Mr. James Orban of The Hearing Society of Maryland, Washington, DC and Delaware was actively seeking candidates for the list of nominees to be submitted to Ms. Kim Bennardi. Mr. Kelter reported that there was no update on the status of the new appointments for the current ENT vacancy and the upcoming audiology and hearing aid dispensing vacancies.

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month

Mr. Kelter reported that he would request Lisa Ellis, Chief Administrative Officer of DHMH, to issue a notice to all DHMH employees that May is Better Hearing and Speech Month. Mr. Kelter reported that to keep consistent with past notices that hearing would be first in the notice as it was an even-numbered year.

Dr. Ronald Kaplan arrived and resumed Chair

Treasurer's Report – John Sloan

Mr. Sloan reported that for the month of March the Board has available funds in the amount of \$123,970.00.

Statistical Report Ending March 31, 2016

The Board reviewed the Statistical Report in the Board packet.

Proposal to Correct Penalty Language

Mr. Kelter submitted to the Board a proposal to correct Administrative Monetary Penalties as authorized by regulation. Mr. Sloan made a motion to approve the draft proposal. Ms. O'Donovan seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.

Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole arrived

Proposal to Amend Administrative Procedure for Failure to Complete Continuing Education

After broad discussion of the issue the Board agreed to revisit the topic at the next meeting on May 19, 2016.

Dr. Scott London arrived

Revision to SLP Limited License Application

Mr. Kelter submitted a draft to the Board of the revision to the SLP –Limited License application. Mr. Payne made a motion to approve the draft. Ms. O’Donovan seconded the motion. Mr. Sloan opposed. Vote passed.

Adjournment

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the regular session meeting pursuant to Maryland State Government Article, 10-508(a) Annotated Code of Maryland. The regular session meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Kaplan, Au.D.
Chair